

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/539,747
Amendment filed August 25, 2008
Reply to OA dated May 29, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 3, 4 and 9 have been amended herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending. No new matter is added by this amendment. Minor amendments are made to claims 3 and 4 for consistency with the specification amendment. The amendment to claim 9 corrects a typographical error in the claim.

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. However, the specification is replete with grammatical errors that include run-on sentences and improper punctuation[], spelling errors (or typographical errors), and usage errors. A substitute specification is required. (Office action paragraph no. 1)

Applicant has made minor amendments to the specification to improve the grammar. A Marked-up Version of the Specification and a Substitute Specification are attached. The Substitute Specification contains no new matter.

Claim 9 is objected to because of informalities. (Office action paragraph no. 2)

Claim 9 is amended to correct the typographical error.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Elonen '789 (U.S. Pat. No. 5,711,789). (Office action paragraph no. 4)

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The rejection of claims 1-20 is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner cites Fig. 3, column 6, lines 38-67, column 7, lines 38-54, and column 8, of Elonen as disclosing the limitations of claim 1 (see Office action, last two lines of page 2, to page 3, line 5). However, the Examiner does not point out specifically which elements in Elonen correspond to the elements in the present claims.

Elonen's apparatus shown in Fig. 3 includes conventional centrifugal pump 60 (column 6, lines 40-41) and separator-vacuum pump combination 64 (column 6, line 42), which are connected by pipe 62 (column 6, line 43) and pipe 118 (column 7, line 16). Applicant assumes the Examiner considers either pump 60 or separator-pump combination 64 to meet the limitations of the gas-liquid separator of claim 1, although the rejection does not clearly state this.

Elonen's centrifugal pump 60 has impeller 68 and shaft 88 in housing (i.e., casing) 66. Present claim 1 requires "a discharge impeller part ... formed on an axial end of the impeller." Applicant submits that there is no portion of Elonen's pump 60 that would correspond to a discharge impeller part on an axial end of impeller 68.

Moreover, claim 1 requires "the other axial end of the impeller being formed to slide on the inner wall of the casing." Elonen's pump 60 does not appear to have an axial end that slides on the inner wall of the casing.

Elonen's pump 60 therefore **does not** meet the limitations of claim 1.

Elonen's separator-vacuum pump combination 64 (see column 6, line 42) has vacuum pump 108 and separation chamber 98. The combination 64 includes blades 114 (column 7, line 29) and

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impeller 100 (column 7, line 6) on a shaft (see FIG. 3). Impeller 100 does not appear to have any part corresponding to a discharge impeller part on an axial end of the impeller.

Therefore, Elonen's separator-vacuum pump combination 64 therefore **also does not** meet the limitations of claim 1.

Applicant therefore submits there is no description in Elonen's FIG. 3, or in the specification of Elonen, of any separator-vacuum pump meeting the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-20 are therefore not anticipated by Elonen '789.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Marked-up Version of the Specification
Substitute Specification

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